

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 45-55, and enter the following claims.

56. (New) A method for the delivery of exogenous DNA capable of being expressed in an animal cell, said method comprising:

(i) introducing said DNA into mutated *Shigella*, said *Shigella* having an attenuating factor which will result in lysis of said *Shigella* after entry into said cell, and having been further inactivated; and

(ii) administering said *Shigella* to said cell, such that the *Shigella*, once inside the cell, will lyse, thereby delivering to the cell the DNA capable of being expressed therein.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein said *Shigella* is *S. flexneri*.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein said *S. flexneri* is strain 15D given ATCC accession number 55710.

59. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein said mammalian cell is a cell of an intestinal mucosal epithelium.

60. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein said *Shigella* is heat-inactivated.

61. (New) A method for delivering DNA capable of being expressed in a mucosal epithelium cell, said method comprising:

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(i) introducing said DNA into a mutated strain of *Shigella* which is unable to synthesize active aspartate β -semialdehyde dehydrogenase of the DAP pathway and which has been further inactivated; and

(ii) administering the *Shigella* of (i) to a mucosal epithelium cell such that the *Shigella*, after uptake by said cell, will lyse, thereby delivering to the cell the DNA capable of being expressed therein.

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62. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said *Shigella* is *S. flexneri*.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein said *S. flexneri* is strain 15D given ATCC accession number 55710.

64. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said mammalian cell is a cell of an intestinal mucosal epithelium.

65. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein said *Shigella* is heat-inactivated.
